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Rockville Seeks $14,000 County Rebate for Library

Rockville leaders, who last week lost a battle to the State Roads Commission over diversion of traffic from the National pike, last night took on the Montgomery County Council in a battle over diversion of money.

The issue, rapidly becoming a perennial at county budget time, involves about $14,000. That's the amount of county tax money the city wants rebated for support of Rockville's privately operated library.

City Attorney David Cahoon told the council Rockville residents suffer double taxation because the city supports both county library service and the Rockville Library Association.

Other residents complained that the county offers only bookmobile service to Rockville.

Alex K. Hancock, county finance director, only opponent of the rebate, warned the county would set a "dangerous precedent" if it began to rebate taxes to municipalities. He questioned the legality of diverting funds to private corporations.

The Rockville library is housed in the old Rockville Academy building.

David E. Betts, treasurer of the Rockville Academy trustees, said use of the building is given free to the library and that $2,400 a year is spent from trust funds for its upkeep. The trustees would be unwilling to give the building to the county for a county-operated library.

May Divert Funds

He revealed that if the library is supplanted, the trustees probably would use the $2,400 a year income for scholarships for Rockville youths.

After hearing a warning from Mayor Dickran Y. Hovsepian that "tabling won't answer the issue," the council took the rebate measure under advisement.

In another hearing on legislation, Silver Spring and Wheaton spokesmen split on a bill which would raise the maximum parking lot tax from 40 to 50 cents per $100.

C. of C. Backs Measure

Thomas G. Oyster, representing the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, supported the measure, maintaining that Wheaton needs the proceeds of a 60-cent special tax to provide 500 more parking spaces in its business district.

Greg Everngam, legislative chairman of the Silver Spring Board of Trade, urged that the ceiling be held at 50 cents.

The council took only a few minutes to dispose of hearings on measures authorizing $23 million in bond issues. There was no opposition.

NEW YORK

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